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OCI No. 1973/67

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
25 November 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Cyprus Situation
(As of 4:00 PM EST)

1. The Turkish government has worked out its counter-proposals to the Greek suggestions for a peaceful settlement of the Cyprus situation. After a three and one-half hour cabinet meeting, Turkish officials reportedly presented their position to Special Envoy Vance. The Vance mission has returned to Athens, and had requested a midnight (3:00 PM EST) meeting with Greek Foreign Minister Pipinelis. Vance reportedly told reporters that he plans to return to Ankara tonight.

2. We have no information on the substance of the Turkish counterproposals. The statement which Prime Minister Demirel reportedly made to the press after the cabinet meeting appears to be an effort to quiet the war fever which has gripped Turkey for several days. He stated that his government was convinced that it was acting with "wisdom" and "cool-headedness," and requested "all my fellow countrymen to continue their daily business in peace and confidence." He begged the members of the Turkish press "to show understanding toward us and to help us."



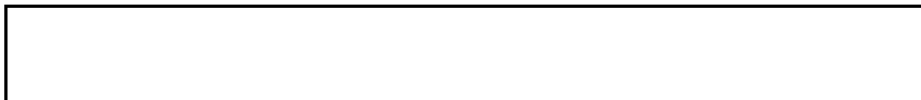
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4. A Greek military officer informed the US Attache's office in Athens that an additional 5,000 Cypriot National Guard reservists have been recalled, and that further calls are planned. He reiterated the contention that if Turkey invaded, the Turkish Cypriot opposition would have to be "terminated" immediately. He also warned that Cypriot President Makarios might have to turn "elsewhere" for assistance in stopping the impending catastrophe.

5. The mood of the Turkish press (before Demirel's plea for "help") remained strongly pro-interventionist and critical of what it sees as a postponement of action. The blame for the delay is generally still placed on foreign pressure, especially that of the US, but in some cases the Demirel government is being charged with a lack of courage and decisiveness. There is still a substantial amount of anti-American comment in the press.

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OCI No. 1972/67

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
25 November 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Cyprus Situation
(As of 12:00 Noon EST)

1. The Turkish response to the Greek-approved proposals carried to Ankara by Special Envoy Vance is still unclear. Vance held an early morning meeting with Turkish Foreign Minister Caglayangil, and a later meeting with President Sunay and Prime Minister Demirel. Turkish officials have since been working out the government's position on the proposals. The Vance Mission plans to return to Athens later today.

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3. In Athens, the US, UN, and NATO mediation efforts apparently have given the Greek populace a "small measure of optimism". The press of 25 November was even more bland than usual, and the government is attempting to create a "business as usual" atmosphere. As evidence of this effort, Junta leader Papadopoulos and Prime Minister Kollias yesterday called in Athens attorney Pouleas and asked him to accept the recently vacated Labor portfolio. Pouleas reportedly expressed amazement that government leaders would take time at such a critical juncture to argue him into accepting a relatively minor cabinet position.

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4. In response to a query from the US Ambassador, Greek Foreign Minister Pipinelis stated that Papadopoulos, speaking for the whole cabinet, had indeed accepted completely the draft proposals which Vance carried to Ankara. He added however, that the going had been rough with some cabinet members, particularly Defense Minister Spandidakis.

5. Britain is preparing to instruct its Ambassador in Nicosia, in conjunction with US Ambassador Belcher, to pressure Cypriot President Makarios into accepting the draft proposals accepted by the Greek government yesterday. The portions of these proposals which deal directly with Cyprus are: 1) a declaration by the Cypriot government that they are ready to cooperate with the UN in studying new arrangements for internal and external security, 2) that the UN would then provide military and police advice to accomplish these ends, and 3) that the operation would aim at the complete demilitarization of Cyprus.

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7. The American Embassy in Nicosia reports a shooting incident yesterday at the Turkish Cypriot village of Ambelikou, started by the Greek Cypriot National Guard, with no casualties. The Embassy also reports that eight bombs exploded in various parts of Cyprus yesterday. The streets of Nicosia were deserted last night.

8. NATO Secretary-General Brosio arrived in Athens in the early afternoon today, and plans to meet with Greek Foreign Minister Pipinelis. Special Envoy Vance has requested that Brosio remain in Athens until he returns from Ankara later today.

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9. Last night's UN Security Council resolution urged moderation by all parties to the dispute and endorsed the efforts of Secretary General U Thant. Thant's special envoy, Rolz-Bennett, met with Greek officials today following talks in Ankara yesterday. No information has been issued on the substance of his talks. He is scheduled to arrive in Nicosia tonight for talks with Cypriot officials.

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OCI No. 1971/67

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
25 November 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Cyprus Situation
(As of 8:00 A.M. EST)

1. The Greek government, with the King, the junta members, and the civilian cabinet members all apparently in agreement, has indicated that it is willing to begin the reduction of its military force on the island with the withdrawal of an initial contingent of 500. This move, however, is to be in response to an appeal by UNSYG Thant addressed to Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus, calling for the reduction of tension by the removal of foreign troops on the island, and is also tied to a counter move by the Turks: the phased return to the condition of military preparedness that existed prior to 14 November.
2. Thant, after some initial resistance, had already issued a similar appeal on 24 November, but he refrained from mentioning the reduction of Greek and Turkish forces to the levels authorized by the 1960 London/Zurich agreement. This will make his message less palatable in Ankara, where a return to the London/Zurich conditions is considered a basic objective. Ankara may also resent the lecturing tone of the first part of the note, which seems more directed against Turkey than against Greece or Cyprus (i.e. condemnation of threats of force).
3. Turkey would reportedly be willing to back off somewhat from its insistence on an immediate total withdrawal of the Greek "illegals" on Cyprus as long as Athens furnished an "exact schedule" of the phase-out and permits supervision of the departures by the London/Zurich signatories (Greece, Turkey, and Great Britain). Athens has shown no sign of being willing to go this far.

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6. Ankara's fear that the Turkish public might fear another "sellout" is reflected in the Radio Ankara domestic broadcast at 1700 on 24 November, which sought to assure its listeners that their government was not going to be diverted from its intention to secure an acceptable Cyprus settlement no matter what emissaries from other countries said. The broadcast featured unusually abusive treatment of the Greek junta, terming it "Byzantine remnants", etc. and harking back to a long history of Greek intrigues.

7. The military posture of both Greece and Turkey remains unchanged at a state of high combat readiness. An invasion force and its backup totalling about 35,000 is assembled along the south Turkish coast. Most members of the Turkish General staff have left Ankara. The ports of Iskenderun and Mersin are closed to international traffic.

8. Thirteen Pakistani Air Force fighter aircraft reportedly arrived in Turkey on 24 November, 10 Ankara and 3 Istanbul. Several references to Pakistani support of Turkey in the present crisis were made on the 8 P.M. broadcast of Radio Ankara.

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9. The atmosphere on Cyprus has grown more tense during the last 24 hours. Store windows in Nicosia are boarded up, and civilian vehicles have about disappeared from the streets. Military vehicles, many of them carrying jerrycans and emergency provisions, are increasingly evident in the Greek sector. The headquarters of the Communist Labor Movement was bombed on 24 November, and students tried to stone the Soviet embassy on 23 November. Police are protecting the Soviet and Greek embassies. The Cypriot cabinet met with high-ranking mainland Greek officers on 24 November, but came up with no new initiatives. The general feeling is that the question of whether Cyprus is to be invaded depends on diplomatic maneuvering in Athens and Ankara, and on the weather, which has now cleared up.

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